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BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BRADFORD-ON-AVON  
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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER and  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1952

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# BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

|                               |     |     |     |     |     |             |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Area                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,005 acres |
| Population                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,525       |
| Rateable Value                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £28,535     |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £113 2 10   |

### VITAL STATISTICS.

| Population                       |              | ...                      | 5,525                    |    |                   |                |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|-------------------|----------------|
|                                  |              |                          | M.                       | F. | Total             | 1951           |
| Live Births—                     | Legitimate   | ...                      | 43                       | 35 | 78                | 88             |
|                                  | Illegitimate | ...                      | 0                        | 2  | 2                 | 3              |
| Total                            |              | ...                      | 43                       | 37 | 80                | 91             |
| Still Births—                    | Legitimate   | ...                      | 2                        | 0  | 2                 | 1              |
|                                  | Illegitimate | ...                      | 0                        | 0  | 0                 | 1              |
| Total                            |              | ...                      | 2                        | 0  | 2                 | 2              |
| Deaths from all causes           |              | ...                      | 40                       | 37 | 77                | 70             |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year : |              |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
|                                  | Legitimate   | ...                      | 3                        | 1  | 4                 | 4              |
|                                  | Illegitimate | ...                      | 0                        | 0  | 0                 | 0              |
| Total                            |              | ...                      | 3                        | 1  | 4                 | 4              |
| Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks  |              |                          | 3                        | 0  | 3                 | 4 (Legitimate) |
|                                  |              |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
|                                  |              |                          | Urban District           |    | England and Wales |                |
| Crude Live Birth rate            | 14.48        | per 1,000 of population. | Comparison               |    | 15.3              |                |
| Corrected Birth rate             | 14.63        |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
| (Comparability Factor 1.01)      |              |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
| Still Birth rate                 | 0.36         | per 1,000 of population. | ,,                       |    | .35               |                |
| Crude Death rate :               |              |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
|                                  | All Causes   | 13.94                    | per 1,000 of population. | ,, |                   | 11.3           |
| Corrected Death rate             | 11.56        | per 1,000 of population. |                          |    |                   |                |
| (Comparability Factor .83)       |              |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
| Infants under 1 year             | 50           | per 1,000 live births.   | ,,                       |    | 27.6              |                |
| Death rate of Infants            |              |                          |                          |    |                   |                |
| under 4 weeks                    | 37.5         | per 1,000 live births.   | ,,                       |    | —                 |                |

| Analysis of deaths from all causes.     |     |     |     | Male | Female | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System      | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis             | ... |     |     | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Syphilitic Diseases                     | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Diphtheria                              | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Whooping Cough                          | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Meningococcal Infections                | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                     | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Measles                                 | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases  | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach             | ... | ... |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus      | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Breast              | ... | ... |     | —    | 3      | 3     |
| Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus              | ... | ... |     | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms | 7   |     |     | 4    | 11     |       |
| Leukaemia, Aleukaemia                   | ... | ... |     | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Diabetes                                | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System      | ... |     |     | 7    | 9      | 16    |
| Coronary Disease, Angina                | ... | ... |     | 3    | 3      | 6     |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease         | ... |     |     | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Other Heart Diseases                    | ... | ... | ... | 4    | 10     | 14    |
| Other Circulatory Diseases              | ... | ... | ... | 4    | 1      | 5     |
| Influenza                               | ... | ... | ... | —    | —      | —     |
| Pneumonia                               | ... | ... | ... | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Bronchitis                              | ... | ... | ... | 2    | —      | 2     |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory System    | ... |     |     | 4    | —      | 4     |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum            | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea      | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis                 | ... | ... |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate                 | ... | ... |     | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion         | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Congenital Malformations                | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases  | ... |     |     | 5    | 2      | 7     |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents                 | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| All other Accidents                     | ... | ... | ... | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Suicide                                 | ... | ... | ... | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Homicide and Operations of War          | ... |     |     | —    | —      | —     |
| TOTALS                                  | ... |     |     | 40   | 37     | 77    |

#### NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. *Comparability Factors.* Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, are given and may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### STAFF.

1. *One part-time Medical Officer*, who is also Medical Officer of Health to the Trowbridge Urban District Council and an Assistant County Medical Officer.
  2. *Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer*. T. J. Lees.
  3. *A part-time typist* who also works for the Trowbridge Sanitary Inspectors.
  4. *A part-time Rodent Operator*.
- (a) *Laboratory Facilities*. A Laboratory has been opened in Bath, which allows for greater ease in transmission of specimens.
  - (b) *Ambulance Facilities*. The Ambulance Station for the area of the County Council Ambulance Service, is stationed at Woolley Grange, in this town.
  - (c) *Nursing in the Home*. There are two district nurses—one midwife, one general.
  - (d) *Home Helps*. The County Council Home Helps service is giving great assistance in cases of acute illness and even more in giving sufficient assistance in the homes of aged persons to prevent them having to be moved to Institutions. It must be understood very clearly that Home Helps are not expected to do Home Nursing.
  - (e) *Treatment Centres and Clinics*. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Church House on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Dr. Semple, the Deputy County Medical Officer, the Health Visitor (Miss Francis) and the two district nurses (when free from other duties) attend each session.
  - (f) *Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes*.
    1. The Bradford-on-Avon District Hospital continues to be available for general cases.
    2. *Berryfield Maternity Hospital*. This establishment is used for cases from the Hospital Management Committee's area.
    3. *Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital*. This hospital continues to admit cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment. It also has beds for 8 tuberculosis cases. When the beds are not required for infectious diseases, they are used for general medical purposes.
    4. *Claverton (Bath) Isolation Hospital*. All cases of suspected and proved cases of polio-myelitis are admitted to this hospital and transferred when necessary to the Bath and Wessex Orthopaedic Hospital.

### *National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.*

No case came under the Council's consideration during the year.

## SANITARY CONDITIONS OF AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. Paragraph 6, Part II.—Bacteriological examination was made of water supplied from the town mains, as follows :—

|               |     |    |              |     |    |
|---------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| Samples taken | ... | 21 | Satisfactory | ... | 21 |
|---------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|

There is no tendency to plumbo solvent action in the water supply.

The estimated population served by stand pipe is 675 persons, being 12% of the population.

Only four houses within the Urban District are known to have private water supplies : one house has been disconnected from the old Ladywell supply and has been connected to the town main.

#### REPORTS ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Water sample received on 16/7/52 at 9.30 a.m. from Westbury House, Main; Bradford-on-Avon Urban District Council.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT. Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours : NIL per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C. in 48 hours and 44°C. in 48 hours :

| Quantity of water tested.          | Acid and gas from lactose. |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
|                                    | at 37°C.                   |   |   |   |   | 44°C. |   |   |   |   |
| Five tubes of 10 m.l. water ... .. | —                          | — | — | — | — | —     | — | — | — | — |
| Five tubes of 1 m.l. water ... ..  | —                          | — | — | — | — | —     | — | — | — | — |

As a result of calculations made from above :

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C. : NIL.

(2) Number of Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C. : NIL.

*Opinion.* Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

Date 18/7/52.

(Signed) H. W. H. KENNARD, *Pathologist.*

#### IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLY :—

1. *Higher Level Improvement Scheme.* Although the laying of the new main to supply the higher reaches of the town was completed, and the new reservoir put into use, difficulties have arisen in the final stages.
2. *New Well.* Negotiations are still in progress with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.
3. A new main to serve the area known as "The Wilderness" was laid which greatly improved the pressure as a result.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A new refuse vehicle was purchased during the year. This has a larger capacity than its predecessor, thus enabling the weekly service to be maintained despite further expansion of the town.

Waste paper collection was maintained although the prices received were considerably less than the previous year.



The practice of spraying the refuse tip daily was continued and fly nuisance was negligible.

The use of Warfarin has kept the refuse tip almost rat free.

#### SEWAGE.

There were no extensions to the sewers, other than on the new housing estates, during the year.

An order has been placed for new pumping equipment for the sewage works but owing to export priority these pumps have not yet been delivered.

A further sludge lagoon has been constructed alongside the existing one.

Sewage effluent analysis was as follows :—

|                                 |     |     |     |     |                    |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| pH.7.5                          |     |     |     |     |                    |
| Free and Saline NH <sub>3</sub> | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26.5 ppm.          |
| Albuminoid NH <sub>3</sub>      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5.8                |
| Cl. 2 as chlorides              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8.3                |
| Equivalent to Nael              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13.7               |
| Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3.5                |
| Nitrite                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | Strong Reaction    |
| Nitrogen in Nitrate and Nitrite | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7.0                |
| Dissolved Solids                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 720                |
| Suspended Solids                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 88                 |
|                                 |     |     |     |     | Impurity figure 47 |
|                                 |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 808 <hr/>    |

#### PUBLIC BATHS.

The public baths serve, in addition to the local population, some 16 schools. At peak periods some 400 school children make use of the swimming baths each day. The apparatus continues to give excellent service.

Two samples were taken, both of which were satisfactory.

#### HOUSING.

Twenty-two new houses were completed by the Council during the year. A large house, formerly requisitioned, was purchased by the Council and converted into three excellent flats.

A start was made on the derequisition of Government Emergency Services property and work was started on a block of 9 flats to house the displaced tenants.

Three houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.

GENERAL.—The administration of the Housing Act, 1936, is becoming daily more difficult. The rising cost of maintenance coupled with static rents is progressively embracing a greater proportion of houses in the category of "unfit and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense," and it is a matter of concern that houses which could be saved are slowly deteriorating into that category because of inability of small owners to meet repair bills. The factors that make Bradford-on-Avon one of the most interesting towns in the county, add to the owners' difficulties.

Total accommodation provided since the war by the Council is now :—

|                      |     |     |     |                 |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| New permanent houses | ... | ... | ... | 159             |
| Prefabricated houses | ... | ... | ... | 30              |
| Flats                | ... | ... | ... | 3               |
|                      |     |     |     | <hr/> 192 <hr/> |

HOUSING ACT, 1936.—Undertakings were received from two owners not to re-let houses after the tenants had been re-housed by the Council.

A further two houses, subject of unconfirmed clearance orders were demolished during the year.

The owner of a further house, subject to an unconfirmed clearance order, submitted proposals, which at the end of the year were still under consideration.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.—There were 139 applicants on the housing list at 31/12/52.

#### DAIRIES AND MILK DISTRIBUTORS.

One new licence to retail T.T. milk was granted during the year, and all existing licences were renewed.

Thirty-nine samples of milk were taken during the year, of which 9 failed to reach the required standard and were followed up. 7 samples submitted for biological examination were all negative for tuberculosis.

The new laboratory at Manor Hospital, Bath, came into operation during December, thus reducing considerably the time spent in transporting samples to the laboratory.

MILK BORNE DISEASE.—There were no cases of milk borne disease reported during the year.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Number of premises where food is prepared or sold, 34; Number of inspections under Food and Drugs Act, 1938, 151; Informal notices served, 26; Formal notices served, Nil.

ICE CREAM.—Retail premises registered at 31/12/52 ... 12

There are no ice cream factories in the district and the entire ice cream supply (with the exception of "lolly-ices") is pre-wrapped and is sold unopened.

Thirty-one samples were taken during the year :—

27 were graded in Category 1  
2 were graded in Category 2  
2 were graded in Category 3  
None was graded in Category 4

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31

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FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.—None reported during the year.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

The time spent on rodent control remains as one week in four. This has been found adequate to deal with the minor infestations occurring and also to carry out periodical inspections.

Warfarin has proved most effective, especially with mice infestations.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| Age Group   | Scarlet Fever |   | Measles |   | Acute Poliomyelitis non-paralytic |   | Whooping Cough |   | Erysipelas |   |
|-------------|---------------|---|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|---|------------|---|
|             | M             | F | M       | F | M                                 | F | M              | F | M          | F |
| 0           | —             | — | —       | — | —                                 | — | —              | — | —          | — |
| 1           | —             | — | 1       | — | —                                 | — | —              | 2 | —          | — |
| 3           | 1             | — | —       | — | —                                 | — | —              | 1 | —          | — |
| 5           | 3             | — | —       | — | —                                 | — | —              | — | —          | — |
| 10          | —             | — | —       | — | —                                 | — | —              | — | —          | — |
| 15          | —             | — | —       | — | —                                 | 1 | —              | — | —          | — |
| 25          | —             | — | —       | — | 1                                 | — | —              | — | —          | — |
| Age Unknown | —             | — | —       | — | —                                 | — | —              | — | —          | 1 |
| TOTALS ...  | 4             | — | 1       | — | 1                                 | 1 | —              | 3 | —          | 1 |

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises<br>(1)  | M/c<br>line<br>No.<br>(2) | Number<br>on<br>Register<br>(3) | Number of          |                           |                                | M/c<br>line<br>No.<br>(7) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
|  |                           |                                 | Inspections<br>(4) | Written<br>notices<br>(5) | Occupiers<br>prosecuted<br>(6) |                           |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                         | 1                         | 1                               | 2                  | —                         | —                              | 1                         |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..                  | 2                         | 29                              | 33                 | 3                         | —                              | 2                         |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... | 3                         | —                               | —                  | —                         | —                              | 3                         |
| TOTAL ... ..   |                           | 30                              | 35                 | 3                         | —                              |                           |

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars   | M/c<br>line<br>No. | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                             |                             | Number of<br>cases in<br>which<br>prosecutions<br>were<br>instituted<br>(7) | M/c<br>line<br>No. |
|---|--------------------|---|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------|
|   |                    | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred                    |                             |   |                    |
| (1)   | (2)                | (3)   | (4)      | To H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(5) | By H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(6) |   | (8)                |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..  | 4                  | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 4                  |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..   | 5                  | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 5                  |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..   | 6                  | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 6                  |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..   | 7                  | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 7                  |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..   | 8                  | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 8                  |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)   |                    |   |          |                             |                             |   |                    |
| (a) insufficient ... ..   | 9                  | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 9                  |
| (b) unsuitable or defective ... ..  | 10                 | 3   | 3        | —                           | —                           | —   | 10                 |
| (c) not separate for sexes ... ..   | 11                 | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 11                 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including<br>offences relating to Outwork) ... .. | 12                 | —   | —        | —                           | —                           | —   | 12                 |
| TOTAL ... ..  |                    | 3   | 3        | —                           | —                           | —   |                    |

**OUTWORK.**

(Sections 110 and 111).

| Nature of Work<br>(1)          | M/c<br>line<br>No.<br>(2) | Section 110   |   |  | Section 111   |                          |                     | M/c<br>line<br>No.<br>(9) |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
|                                |                           | No. of<br>out-workers<br>in August<br>list required<br>by Sect.<br>110 (1) (c)<br>(3) | No. of<br>cases of<br>default<br>in sending<br>lists to the<br>Council<br>(4) | No. of<br>prosecu-<br>tions for<br>failure to<br>supply lists<br>(5) | No. of<br>instances<br>of work in<br>unwholesome<br>premises<br>(6) | Notices<br>served<br>(7) | Prosecutions<br>(8) |                           |
| Wearing / Making, etc. ...     | 13                        | 4   | —   | —  | —   | —                        | —                   | 13                        |
| apparel   Cleaning and washing | 14                        | —   | —   | —  | —   | —                        | —                   | 14                        |

### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health. (See above tables).

#### VISITS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES.

|   |     |     |                   |
|---|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Inspections under the Public Health Act, 1936                           | ... | ... | 117               |
| Nuisances detected  | ... | ... | 29                |
| Nuisances abated  | ... | ... | 23                |
| Inspections under the Food and Drugs Act                                | ... | ... | 151               |
| Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937                               | ... | ... | 33                |
| Inspections under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949                       | ... | ... | 35                |
| Inspections in connection with Housing Applications                     | ... | ... | 266               |
| Inspections under Drainage Byelaws                                      | ... | ... | 44                |
| Inspections in connection with Water Supply and Control of Chlorination | ... | ... | 61                |
| Inspections : General Public Health Matters                             | ... | ... | 347               |
| Inspections in connection with Rodent Control                           | ... | ... | 73                |
| Inspections in connection with Refuse Collection                        | ... | ... | 40                |
|   |     |     | <hr/> 1,219 <hr/> |

THOMAS J. LEES,

Sanitary Inspector.

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.





